

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name: Poole's Tract School and House
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 12/41 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: (Not on Atlas)
4. Address: 22800 Mt. Ephraim Road, Dickerson
5. Classification Summary
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Category <u>building</u> | Previous Survey Recording <u>None</u> |
| Ownership <u>private</u> | Title and Date: _____ |
| Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u> | |
| Status <u>occupied</u> | |
| Accessible <u>no</u> | Federal _____ State _____ County _____ Local _____ |
| Present use <u>private residence</u> | |
6. Date: c. 1879 (school) 7. Original Owner: Board of School Commissioners
8. Apparent Condition c. 1880-1890 (house)(remodelled (?) 1906) George Andrews/Nathan Cooley
- a. fair b. altered c. original site

9. Description: The Poole's Tract Schoolhouse was originally one-room wood frame structure 25' x 30' on a fieldstone foundation, with three windows 3' x 6' lining the northeast and southwest walls. A 25' x 20' addition was added with two windows on each side wall. All the glass is now gone, but some of the black painted wood louvered shutters remain.
- Cooley House: The gable-ended front of this four bay by two bay L-shaped 2½ story house faces onto Mt. Ephraim Road. It has a fieldstone foundation and is covered with white novelty wood siding. The gable ends have small rectangular louvered ventilators. In the crook of the L is a two story open cement floored porch with some turned detailing. There are two wooden paneled doors on the front facade. The front door of the porch has a rectangular three light transom above. Windows throughout the house are two-over-two double-hung sash, and are flanked by green wooden louvered shutters. The gable roof is covered with sheets of metal. There is a central chimney.
10. Significance: The Poole's Tract school is one of a small number of 19th century schoolhouses still existing in the County today. The schoolhouse was erected by the Board of School Commissioners in 1879 and doubled as a community meeting house, serving the congregation of the Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church, South, until they built a formal church building, south on Mt. Ephraim Road, in 1888. Sometime before 1900 the school was doubled in size, a small corridor separating the new from the old section, but by 1920 the school had been closed, and in 1921 was sold by the Board of Education.

Sixty-four acres adjacent to the schoolhouse lot was purchased in 1872 by George Andrews of Frederick County, who resided near the Montgomery County line on another tract he had bought in 1863. He erected a small three room tenant house between 1880 and 1890 and at his death in 1901, the property was divided into two lots and sold. In 1906 Nathan S. Cooley bought the tract which probably included the present house, perhaps incorporating the former three-room tenant house. In 1921 Cooley bought the schoolhouse and used it as a farm outbuilding. Cooley's children still own the property.

1. Researcher and date researched: Mark Walston-5/79 Leavitt/McGuckian
Arch. Description
12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation
Approval _____
15. Acreage: 12.147 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 12/41
(not on Atlas)
Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Poole's Tract School and House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

22800 Mt. Ephraim Road

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

—YES, RESTRICTED

—YES, UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Clyde S. Cooley et. al.

Telephone #: 459-1837

STREET & NUMBER

9202 6th Street

CITY, TOWN

Lanham

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: Orphan's Court Docket

Folio #: Case 14926

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M. 12-41

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Schoolhouse:

The Poole's Tract Schoolhouse represents an advancement in school construction in Montgomery County. The design, and philosophy behind it, incorporated new ideas developed since the beginnings of the public school system. The original building was a one-room wood frame structure, 25 feet by 30 feet in size. Sometime in the next two decades a second 25' by 20' room was added, with a small corridor separating it from the older section. Differences between the "new" and "old" sections of the Poole's Tract schoolhouse point out the evolution in philosophy that was taking place in Montgomery County schoolhouse design and construction.

In the older classroom, three windows lined the northeast and southwest walls. They were 3' by 6' in size, yet, because of the room's large size, the lighting would have been dim and the air flow minimal. The windows stood 3' from the floor. Olive green wainscoting lines the lower 3' of the walls, a satisfactory height for protecting the walls from the wear and tear of the classroom. The blackboard was made of plaster painted black. The addition had two windows on each side wall; they were the same dimensions as those in the older room. White walls provided good light reflection and brightened the classroom. The hallway doubled as an entry vestibule and cloakroom, as coat hooks lined the walls.^a

There is a pump to the west of the schoolhouse.

- a Leavitt, Donald M. "Early Montgomery County Schoolhouses", Montgomery County Story, Vol. 22, No. 2, (Montgomery County Historical Society, May 1979), pages 4-5.

Cooley House:

The gable-ended front of this four bay by two bay L-shaped two-and-a-half story house faces onto Mt. Ephraim Road. It has a fieldstone foundation and is covered with white novelty wood siding.

The gable ends have small rectangular louvered ventilators. In the crook of the L is a two story open cement-floored porch with some turned detailing. There are two wooden paneled doors on the front facade. The front door of the porch has a rectangular three light transom above.

Windows throughout the house are two-over-two double-hung sash, and are flanked by green wooden louvered shutters.

The gable roof is covered with sheets of metal. There is a central chimney, and an interior chimney at the east end.

There is a one story shed roofed addition across the rear, and a smaller addition behind that.

Besides the schoolhouse, there are several wooden outbuildings in ruinous condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Local history	

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1879 school
c. 1880-1890 house, remodelled (?) 1906

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Poole's Tract School is one of a small number of 19th century schoolhouses existing in Montgomery County today. The land upon which the building stands was sold to the Board of School Commissioners in 1879 by Henry Scholl and Caroline Scholl for \$25. The plot was 1/2 acres of "Beall's Goodwill".¹ The one-room schoolhouse was erected shortly thereafter. An 1884 insurance policy for the school describes the building as a frame building, 24' x 30', one story with a twelve foot ceiling, six windows, one flue, and with the roof covered in shingles.² As was common practice, the schoolhouse doubled as a community meeting house, and served the congregation of the Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church, South, until their erection of a formal church building south of the school on Mt. Ephraim Road, in 1888. Sometime before 1900 the school was doubled in size, a small corridor separating the new from the old section.

The land adjacent to the schoolhouse lot was purchased in 1872 by George Andrews of Frederick County from Iussanah Hardy, of Washington County; this parcel (6 1/2 acres of "Hopewell") was bought for \$750.³ George Andrews resided near the Montgomery County line, on a straddling tract purchased from Leonidas Wilson in 1863. Sometime after the purchase of the 6 1/2 acres, a small tenant house was erected (c. 1880-1890) upon the lot, which lay on both sides of Mt. Ephraim Road. George Andrews died intestate on Sept. 28, 1901, and consequently the land was put up in a court ordered sale, with the proceeds being divided among the heirs. The tract of land adjacent to the schoolhouse was described in the sale advertisement as

...the Poole's Tract, containing 53 acres...this tract is divided into convenient fields, has a never failing spring of excellent water...and contains about 10 acres of oak and chestnut timber and is improved by a tenant house of 3 rooms. The tract has been limed and is in a good state of cultivation and is very productive...the above tract being divided by the public road, 16 acres on the north side of the road and 37 acres on the south side.⁴

At the sale, the northern 16.5 acres were purchased by Mrs. Nettie Thompson, daughter of the late George Andrews, for \$42.50 per acre, totaling \$701.25.⁵ (It is unknown if the three room tenant house was situated on this portion of the tract, or the southern portion).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued on Attachment Sheet A)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Land Records
 Montgomery County Equity Records
 Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records
 Montgomery County Board of Education Records
 Leavitt, Donald M., "Early Montgomery County Schoolhouses", The Montgomery County Story, Vol. 22, #2 (MCH 1st Soc., May 1979).
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12.147 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mark Walston

Leavitt/McGuckian - Arch. Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

5/79

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

Attachment Sheet A
Poole's Tract School and House

Mrs. Thompson, later Nettie Nicholson, sold the lot in 1906 to Nathan S. Cooley for \$1,800.⁶ This price indicates the probable presence of the subject dwelling at the time of this conveyance, perhaps incorporating the former three room tenant house in the design.

By 1920, the Poole's Tract Schoolhouse had been closed down, and on April 23, 1921, the school and the surrounding 1/2 acre were offered at public sale by the Board of Education. At the sale, the property was purchased by Nathan S. Cooley, occupant of the adjoining land and house, for \$735.⁷

After the death of Nathan's widow, Lillie, in 1964, the property in the estate inventory was described as a "2 story frame house on 12.147 acres of land, three rooms down, three rooms up, cellar. No central heat, not bath, pressure pump, no septic system (privy). Barn and three outbuildings of negligible value."⁸ The estate is currently jointly held by the four Cooley children; Ruby Davis, Vernon Cooley, Herbert Cooley and Clyde Cooley.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Montgomery County Land Records, EBP 23/50 (Sept. 23, 1879).
- 2 Insurance Policy No. 12754, Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of Maryland
- 3 Land Records, op. cit., EBP 11/183 (Nov. 7, 1872).
- 4 Montgomery County Equity Records, Judgment TD 7/185, Filed Oct. 7, 1901.
- 5 Montgomery County Land Records, TD 22/187 (March 15, 1902).
- 6 Ibid., 184/253 (Jan. 11, 1906).
- 7 Ibid., 308/98 (July 5, 1921).
- 8 Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records, Inventory VMB 172/585.

M: 12-41
Poole's Tract School and House
22800 Mt. Ephraim Road, Dickerson
Poolesville quadrangle

